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SELECT LECTURES

ON THE NON-DETAILED TEXTS

I STORIES OF EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY

II HISTORICAL TALES FROM SHAKESPEARE

III TALISMAN

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Lectures in Non-Detailed Selections

I

Stories of Exploration and Discovery.

(i) The Contribution of Portugal and Spain towards Exploration and Discovery.

Portugal :—In the long struggle between the Christians and the Mahomedans which is known generally as the crusades, the dependence of the countries of Europe on the product of the East had become more and more marked. Nevertheless owing to the fact that all the trade-routes were controlled by Mahomedans, who had overrun all the lands on the east of the Mediterranean and the north of Africa, the difficulty and cost of obtaining these products had become much greater. The ships of Genoa and Venice still visited the coasts of Asia—Minor and Syria to receive the precious goods brought overland by the caravans, but it had become necessary to find some way of obtaining those products without paying the heavy tolls demanded by the Mahomedans. The leading part in this work was taken by Portugal.

It was king John of Portugal who laid the foundations of the maritime greatness of his country. After him, his sons

Pedro and Henry helped much in the work of enlarging geographical knowledge. Pedro was a keen traveller and in his wanderings throughout Western Europe collected a great deal of information of useful sort partly in the form of maps and charts. Henry established a nautical school at St. Vincent which attracted navigators from all parts. He himself began studying and teaching the art of navigation.

Henry's objects in this wonderful work were many; in the first place, he loved discovery for its own sake. He desired to find a way, if such existed round the south of Africa, which would help to solve the problem of the real shape of the world. In the second place, he hoped that by the discovery of this route a new way would be found to India, a way which would be free from the tolls and other draw-backs of the routes through the Levant. Finally, as a devout Christian, he wanted to extend the Christian faith.

He built an improved type of ship known as "caraval" in which long and dangerous voyages were possible. During this time Madeira was colonised. Cape Bagdor was crossed and the River of Gold was reached. In 1441 the White Cape (Cape Blanco) was passed for the first time and there the African natives were seized and ransomed for gold dust. Unfortunately, the craze for gold and slaves became a marked feature of the Portuguese sailors that the majority of them lost sight of the original motive of Exploration which had led Henry to send them forth. In 1445, Cape Palmas was passed and it was thought that the Western Nile too would be discovered. Another expedition reached the Senegal river, but he natives were hostile to the sailors.

In the meanwhile Henry died and the work left incomplete by him was taken up by his successors. In 1471, the Equator was crossed. In 1484, Deigo Cao reached the mouth of the river Congo and the chief of that region was baptised. In 1486 Bartholomew Diaz set out from Portugal with three ships and with some difficulty reached the Cape of 'Good Hope.' A second voyage was attempted, but delays occured. Vascode Gama set out a voyage round the cape and soon reached the point where it bends to the Gulf of Guinea. From there, he sailed directly south east and after halting at Mombosa and Malindi, atlast reached Calicut with great difficulty. Subsequent expeditions acquired Goa and Calicut and also the Spice Islands fell into their hands. Many places in Africa had also become theirs and now Portugal had become a great 'trading nation.'

Spain :—The effect of the Portuguese achievements was to stir men's minds to an even greater extent than before. Among those who were deeply affected by the progress of discovery was Christopher Columbus. He believed that the world was round and became convinced that it was possible "to reach the East by sailing to the West." In order to test these matters, he led four expeditions across the Atlantic through the kind patronage of Isabella, the queen of Spain. In the first expedition he discovered the beautiful Island of Salvador or Watling Island in Bahamas, Cuba and Hayti which from its likeness to Spain he called Hispaniola. During the second voyage he reached Dominica and Jamaica. During his third voyage, he discovered Trinidad and the coast of South America. Atlast he returned to Spain in 1504. His patroness Isabella

died almost at the moment of his arrival and he himself died in 1506.

After Columbus Vespucci, Balboa and Magellan filled the details of the geography of the Western Hemisphere. Vespucci reached the coast of Brazil and explored South America. Balboa went to the Isthmus of Darien (Panama) and was the first European to see the wonderful pacific (1513). But it was Magellan who discovered the channel leading to it from the Atlantic.

At the time when Magellan was making preparations for his voyage into the Pacific Ocean Spanish expeditions were being led to explore central America and Mexico—the chief of them being those led by Cortes and Pizzaro. Cortes landed on the Mexican coast and on hearing that Montezuma, the chief of Mexico was not popular with his people, captured him. But the audacity of Cortes provoked the people and they revolted, but to no purpose. At last Mexico was completely captured. The success of Cortes stimulated Pizzaro who undertook the conquest of Peru. He seized the Inca the chief of Peru and put him to death. Soon after the whole of Peru was conquered.

(ii) SEAMEN OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

Signs of a new spirit of activity were dimly discernable in early Tudor times. The marvellous discoveries of Columbus and Vascode Gama stirred the sluggish fancy of Henry VII who sent John Cabot, a Venetian settled in Bristol on a voyage to America which resulted in the discovery of the

coast of Labrador. Nothing practical came of this, however, until the private enterprise of the merchants of Bristol sent out expeditions of discovery that won for England a small share in the Newfoundland fisheries and the trade with West Africa. Plymouth adventurers, conspicuous among whom was William Hawkins, opened out commerce between England and South America. In London the company of *The Merchant Adventurers*, which as the chief society of English traders, had long competed for the Baltic and Scandinavian markets with the German merchants of the Steelyard, showed under the guidance of Sebastian Cabot, the son of the discoverer of Labrador, an enterprise foreign to earlier generations. In 1553, at Cabot's suggestion, the first native English voyage of discovery was undertaken by Sir Hugh Willoughby and his pilot Richard Chancellor, who strove to open up new trading centres in northern and eastern lands, and to discover if possible, a north-east passage to China through the Arctic seas. Ill luck attended this pioneer expedition, and only Chancellor with a few of the ships made any discovery of importance. He found his way into the White Sea, and opened up trading relations with Russia of such importance that a Muscovy or *Russia Company* was started to work it.

Though Chancellor's voyage was undertaken under Mary the new impulse which drove Englishmen to adventure and discovery was the result of the great stirring of men's minds that followed the Reformation. Religious zeal made it a pious work to despoil the Papist subjects of Philip II. Moreover, the Spaniards kept their American colonies under strict control and claimed an absolute monopoly of trade with them. The

dearness which followed monopoly made the Spanish colonists themselves welcome any merchants daring enough to disregard the navigation laws and sell them the goods of which they had urgent need. Hence smuggling commodities into Spanish colonies became another way of making money easily. The impulse to new adventure had begun.

The special want of the Spaniards in America was that of labourers to work their mines and till their plantations. They were too few and too proud to work in a tropical climate and the native Americans of the West India islands died off like flies when forced to work for their new masters. John Hawkins, son of the William Hawkins of the reign of Henry VIII made voyages in his father's track and soon learnt that an easy way to win riches was to kidnap or buy ship-loads of strong and hardy negroes in West Africa and sell them to the Spaniards in America and the West Indies. In 1562 and in 1564 Hawkins made two slaving voyages to the Guine a coast and sold his human cargo to such profit in Hispaniola and Mexico that he came home a wealthy and a famous man. Philip II was much incensed at the daring heretic. When in 1567, Hawkins attempted a third voyage on a larger scale, the Spanish officials would not allow him to transact business. Hawkins tried to force his wares upon the colonists, but was entrapped into the narrow harbour of Vera Cruz in Mexico and overborne by numbers. He lost most of his ships and profits, but returned safely to England, and showed the way to other adventurers. He was the founder of the negro slave trade which made possible the colonization of the tropical America by a planter aristocracy

cultivating its lands by black labour, and which for more than two hundred years was to be a source of immense gain to English merchants.

Hawkins was a mere man of business, though terribly efficient at his work. His example was soon followed by others. Conspicuous among them were Martin Frobisher a Yorkshireman who made three voyages to the frozen coasts of Labrador in the hope of finding a north-west passage to China, and Francis Drake, a Devonshire man and a kinsman of Hawkins, who after having gone on a voyage to Panama climbed a hill from which he could look down on the Pacific, formed a resolution to sail an English ship upon that strange ocean which had hitherto been navigated by the Spaniards alone. With this object Drake set forth in 1577 with a fleet of five small vessels hoping to redeem his vow. He was away from England for three years and met with countless perils from storms, mutinies and the hostility of the Spaniards. He lost all his ships, save his own vessel, the Golden Hind. He crossed the South Atlantic, sailed through the dangerous straits of Magellan to the open Pacific, where he plundered the Spaniards at his will and at last, loaded with precious booty sailed westwards over the Indian ocean, and safely got home in 1580 by way of Cape of Good Hope, being the first captain who had sailed round the world and returned alive to Port. His success made him the hero of the moment. and Elizabeth, visiting the Golden Hind as it lay in the Thames at Deptford dubbed him a knight on his own quarter deck.

The last years of Elizabeth's reign saw the first attempts to found English Colonies in America. As early as 1583, Sir

Humphrey Gilbert strove to plant an English settlement on the dreary coast of Newfoundland, but failed utterly and perished at sea on his way home. His half brother, Sir Walter Raleigh, the most brilliant of the Devonshire heroes of the reign, took up Gilbert's ideas and between 1585 and 1590 made three attempts to set up an English colony in a part of the mainland of North America which he called Virginia in honour of the Virgin Queen. But his main intention was to lead an expedition to the gold mines of Guiana. For that purpose he made a voyage to South America and passed up the river Orinoco. But the Spanish opposition was very great and he had to return home being afraid of the Spaniards. Even in England, he did not lead a peaceful life. He was soon put to death by the English King to gratify the bitter hatred of the Spaniards.

(iii) EXPLORATION IN AFRICA, AUSTRALIA AND CANADA.

The exploration of the interior of Africa was done by a number of Englishmen of whom three persons stand most prominent. They are Mungo Park, Livingstone and Henry Stanley.

Park penetrated into the interior reached the Gambia river, Sengal, Pisania and other places and observed the customs and manners of the inhabitants of the country. After him, Livingstone visited Zambesi, Loanda and Lake Bangwelo. Lastly Henry Stanley explored central Africa, found out that there was no connection between Lake Tanganiyka and Victoria Nyanza and discovered the Congo river.

The existence of the southern continent was long believed in by people prior to its discovery. But it was Captain Cook who took a definite step in exploring the Australian continent. In 1769, he reached New Zealand and settled its position and nature. Next year he discovered a harbour in the East Coast of Australia and called it Botany Bay. During his subsequent voyages, he discovered New Caledonia and Norfolk island. After him Buss, Sturt and Eyre completed the work of exploration.

In Canada, the interior exploration was attempted by Alexander Mackenzie. He started on his voyage down the Slave River with certain Indian guides and reached the delta. He noticed that the vegetation was luxuriant and the soil fertile. During his second voyage, he crossed Lake Athabasea and sailed up the Peace river. Then he reached the rocky mountains and the river Fraser. Thus he explored the whole of the interior of Canada.

II

Historical Tales from Shakespeare
Character of Richard III.

Richard is the natural outcome of the Wars of Roses. Under ordinary circumstances such a monstrosity would be regarded a demon rather than a man, but the times were such, when the foundations of human society were shattered, that we feel that their inevitable product must be a creature in the form of a man, yet utterly unhuman. " When we look at Richard from this point of view, as the embodiment of the spirit of a guilty age, a portion of his guilt may be said to disappear, if not morally yet aesthetically." He seems to us the terrible demoniac accomplisher of an awfully tragic destiny. He is like Iago, an 'honest villain': he takes us into his confidence at every step and tells not only what he is going to do, but why he is going to do it. His body is ill-formed; he is hateful to look at; his ill-looks invite reproach; reproach quickens his malice. Because men hate to look at him, he craves all the more to be looked on. This experience generates in him lust of power which is impossible save by crime. So he has recourse to intellectual training to commit crimes. His villainy is well exhibited in wooing Anne. He kills Hastings, the queen's kindred, young princes, Buckingham and others, not because they are rivals, but because they stand on his way of achieving his ambition. He amuses himself in ridiculing others and possesses an eminent satirical wit. He pretends to be pious to achieve his ends; and his hypocricy reaches the climax when he pursuades Elizabeth

to marry her daughter to him. Thus "the hateful in his character is balanced by the admirable" in him so much so, we are reconciled to his crimes.

Though Richard is a skilful dissembler he is not all hypocrite: his courage and his self-control atleast are genuine, and strength of will is exerted in repressing his own moral nature. He describes conscience as a word that cowards use, devised at first to keep the strong in awe. He is indeed disturbed in his sleep by the vision; but that does not unnerve him. Even though nemises overtakes him he fights like a hero and dies an honourable death.

THE WARS OF ROSES.

When Henry V died, his son succeeded him to the throne of England as Henry VI. But as he was a very young boy, the Duke of Humphrey was appointed as Protector. When Henry became of age, he married Margaret, the daughter of the duke of Anjou, and a penniless lady. It was through the influence of Suffolk that the marriage was settled. His motive in settling the match was that he might rule England through his control over the queen. But he did not take into account the temper of the English nation when he intended to do so.

The Queen and her party, especially Suffolk plotted to overthrow the Protector. The rivalry between the queen and the Protector's wife served as a pretext for the queen and her party to prosecute their schemes. A plot in which the Protector's wife instigated certain conjurers to bring the death of the King and the Queen afforded ground for Margaret to condemn her as a traitor. Her husband the

Protector was tried before the King for treason and disloyalty. He was imprisoned in the Tower where he was strangled to death by two murderers at the instance of Suffolk. The death of Humphrey exasperated the people who demanded his trial and condemned him to exile. Shortly afterwards Suffolk met a cruel death while crossing the Channel.

Meanwhile York, a direct descendant of Richard II and a proper heir to the throne from the York line, had gone to Ireland with his army in order to suppress a rebellion there. After his task was over, he directed the army against the king. His object in doing this was to dethrone Somerset who had stepped in queen's favour, from his high office, and if opportunity occurred to aim at the throne itself. The king was not able to defy York and so sent Somerset to Tower.

In 1453 a son was born to Henry who soon after, became insane. York became Protector, but his term of office was shortlived as the king soon recovered from insanity. Shortly after, Margaret released Somerset and restored him to his Office and her favour.

This action of Margaret incensed York so much that he took up arms against the king. York had on his side Warwick, the king maker and Salisbury and chose a white rose, while the queen's party had a red one. The royal forces met York at St. Albans. In the battle that ensued Somerset died and the Yorkists became victorious. But the struggle was not over and hereafter the point was whether the Yorkist or the Lancastrian should wear the crown of England.

When Henry lost his senses a second time, York once more became Protector. Henry soon recovered reason, but

York openly claimed the English throne. Henry afraid of his opponent made a compact that he should rule the country till his death and afterwards the crown should go to York. But Margaret repudiated the compact and took up open arms against York. At Wakefield the two armies fought and York was taken prisoner and killed. But his sons avenged his death. At St. Albans a second battle was fought in which the Yorkists fared ill. But Edward the eldest son of York entered London to the rejoice of Londoners. Thus encouraged the Yorkists thoroughly defeated the Lancastrians at Towton.

Warwick was now supreme and he wanted to marry the sister of the French King to Edward. But the latter secretly had married a Lancastrian widow named Elizabeth Grey. This irritated Warwick so much that he made common cause with Margaret and drove away Edward to Flanders. But the latter abided his time. He soon returned with 6,000 men and defeated the Lancastrians on the field of Tenekshury. Margaret's son was made short work of. She herself was banished. Afterwards Edward ascended the throne and reigned as King of England.

HENRY V.

Henry V was quite a changed man from Prince Henry. He was sober-minded, shrewd, of a strong will, just, masterful and yet willing to be advised. His father had already advised him to keep the nobles busy with foreign wars and so prevent them from plotting against himself on behalf of the young Earl of March the right heir to the English throne. The time for war with France was opportune, because of a quarrel

between the two parties namely the Burgandians who were led by the Duke of Burgandy and the Armagnacs who were led by the Duke of Orleans and Henry V like Edward III before him claimed the French throne. He refused to accept the Salic law as it did not apply to France. The Archbishop of Canterbury as head of the church of England, wishing to divert Henry's attention from investigating as the master of church finance too closely, also supported Henry in the argument that the Salic law did not apply to France. To strengthen the argument he quoted a text from the Bible. The Archbishop also added that the Duke of Exeter, the King's uncle and himself together with three fourths of the English forces would prevent the Scotch from invading England, whilst the King together with one fourths of the English forces might invade France and claim the French throne.

Accordingly Henry V sent messengers to the King of France claiming the French throne. But the Dauphin mocked at Henry as a dissolute prince and sent him a present of a chest of tennis balls, as an inducement to him to give up all idea of invading France. Henry controlled his anger at this insult and coldly returned thanks for the insulting gift and reminded the Dauphin that the tennis balls might become cannon-balls with which he would turn out Charles VI from his throne.

Afterwards he invaded France with a large army and defeated the French in the famous battle of Agincourt. This decided the victory in Henry's favour. Then the French King sued peace with Henry and as proof of amity, married his daughter to him.

RICHARD II.

The reign of Richard II shows that a King is made for the people and not the people for the King. As Richard was a weak minded man, he chose favourites and flatterers who advised the King badly and led him into evil ways. This incensed the nobles so much that the Duke of Gloucester putting himself at the head of the council and Parliament, put to death two of Richard's favourites. Though Gloucester's action irritated the King very much, he was waiting for an opportunity for revenge. One day he suddenly seized his uncle and sent him secretly to Calais where Thomas Mowbray was Governor. There he was mysteriously murdered. Richard's other two uncles John of Gaunt and York were too feeble to resist the King, but Gaunt's son Bolinbroke wanted to take revenge. He dared not accuse Richard openly but brought charges against Moubray for having murdered. Gloucester. But Moubray denied the charge; and when the matter was taken before Richard, he asked them to decide it by fighting a duel.

On the appointed day, Richard instead of asking them to fight, banished both. He sent Bolinbroke in exile for ten years, and afterwards at the instance of John of Gaunt, reduced the term to six years; in Moubray's case, he fixed no time.

Meanwhile, rebellion broke out in Ireland. Richard was in sad need of money. He wanted to raise state revenues by plundering the people and levying unjust taxes. At that time, he heard that gaunt was on his death-bed. Instead of shedding tears for the dying man, he gloated over at the

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prospect of confiscating his lands and estates. When gaunt heard this, he cursed the King bitterly and expired.

The actions of Richard, his bad Government, the ill-advice of his favourites, all these exasperated the nobles. When they heard that Bolinbroke had risen against the King they all joined him.

Bolinbroke first came to claim his estates and afterwards the throne itself. Richard was at last obliged to abdicate it in his favour and soon after, expired.

JOHN.

John usurped the English throne ignoring the rights of Arthur who was a young child, and his reign was most unpopular. He had refused to acknowledge the Pope's legate and consequently the Pope had excommunicated him, and pronounced interdict on the land. All public worship had ceased. The church doors were shut and their bells silent; men celebrated no sacrement, but that of private baptism; youth and maid could not marry; the dying man went without pardon or comfort; the dead lay unburied by the high-roads; the people heard no sermons but those preached at the market-crosses by priests who cried down curses or wild prophets who uttered warnings and pointed to the signs of heaven for confirmation.

Meanwhile, he had Arthur murdered and this foolish act of his had incensed his nobles who revolted against him. Dauphin of France invaded England. His mother Eleanor was dead.

John's case was a most pitiable one. Though he despaired, he proved equal to the occasion. He hypocritically tendered submission to the Pope on condition that the Pope called off the French and put a stop to the Crusade against him. But Dauphin could not be deterred from his purpose as he aimed at the English throne. Earls of Pembroke and Salisbury had also joined the ranks of the French army, and incited Dauphin to action. It was a war now, but a war that brought disaster on both sides. In the end John caught fever and died. England never suffered so much as she did under him. After his death she prospered well.

THE MURDER OF CEASAR.

The murder of Ceasar was a great political blunder. The conspirators did not have a true perspective of the times; nor did they understand the temper of the nation whom they hoped to free from thraldom. Excepting Brutus, there was not a single high-souled personality in the conspiracy who was actuated by the lofty ideals of patriotism, freedom and liberty. Either, they were selfish in their aims or they were jealous of Ceasar. While they dreaded Ceasar's supremacy they themselves coveted power.

But Antony's oration had turned the tables against them. "The forces which made Ceasar" became concentrated in his nephew Octavius. In the beginning, Octavius leaned against Senatorial party, but after some time, he was forced to change his policy and consequently formed a triumverate with Antony and Lepidus and divided the Empire between them.

It is sad to contemplate that there was no complete harmony between Brutus and Cassius. On the plains of Philippi though Brutus drove away the forces of Octavius, Cassius was defeated by Antony. In despair, Cassius committed suicide. But this unnerved Brutus and in the second battle he was defeated. In the end, he ran upon his sword and died a pitiable death. "In truth the spirit of Ceasar still walked the earth and turned the conspirators' swords against themselves."

CORIOLANUS.

The story of Coriolanus shows that however great, noble and patriotic a man may be, his pride and selfishness will bring him down sooner or later.

Coriolanus was born of blue blood. His father having died early, his mother had brought him up as a true Roman ought to be. He grew up to be a strong and patriotic young man. But one fatal blunder he committed. He had forgotten to develop his mind side by side with his body; and the result was, that, instead of showing humility in all his actions, instead of being generoushearted, magnanimous and noble, arrogance, imperiousness, and utter selfishness, and a contempt towards his inferiors characterised him and all his actions.

He distinguished himself in the wars against Tarquin the Proud and the Volscians. His martial prowess and glory won for him great popularity, and the post of consulship was within his easy grasp. If he had been less impudent he would have got it very easily. But on the day of election his sense of ego forbade him to go through the formalities

which every candidate for consulship had to observe. He even went a step further. He sneered at the mass and showed a contempt towards them. This incensed the Tribuines, the popular representatives of the Plebians, who tried him as a traitor and condemned him to exile.

This insult which he had received at the hands of his people, produced in him a thirst for revenge upon Rome. He went to Aufidus the leader of the Volscians, told him what had happened to him and offered his help when the latter invaded Rome. Aufidus though he was his mortal enemy, sank his differences, made common cause with his foe and shared the command of the army with him.

When the Romans learnt the news that Coriolanus was invading Rome with the help of the Volscians, their fear knew no bounds. One by one pleaded before him to desist from his task, but in vain. His thirst for revenge was so much that he did not relent. At last when all attempts to bring him round failed, his mother, his dear wife and his only son went to him and implored him on bended knees for mercy.

His mother's tears were too much for him to be heard-hearted. He promised her that he would save Rome. Accordingly, he made peace between Volscians and Romans.

But this peace cost him his life. Aufidus, suspected his motives, accused him as a traitor, and condemned him to death. Thus passed away the great man who, had he been only less humble, would have been an ornament to his country and a monument of greatness to his family, and might have saved a premature and unhappy death.

III

THE TALISMAN.

THE CRUSADES.

The Crusades or wars of the cross, were waged by the Christians of Europe against the Turks, for the recovery of Jerusalem and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which had been built over the supposed tomb of Jesus Christ. The Turks were Mahometans, or followers of Mahomet, an Arab who was born at Mecca A. D. 569. He taught the Arabs to give up idol worship and believe in one God. Mahometanism spread over a greater part of the East, and the Arabs under its influence, conquered the Southern and Eastern shores of the Mediterranean, and were then in their turn conquered by the Turks who had also become Mahometans. The Turks ill-treated the Christian pilgrims who went to the Holy Sepulchre, and a monk called Peter the Hermit, came to Europe and stirred up the enthusiasm of all Christians against them. Those who pledged themselves to the Holy War took the cross i.e. wore a cross generally of a red colour, upon their shoulders as a sign of love among all Christian soldiers and of willingness to endure all things for the sake of regaining Jerusalem. The first Crusade (1095)

resulted in the establishment of a Christian King and Kingdom at Jerusalem, but in 1187 Jerusalem was reconquered by the Turks under their great Sultan, Saladin.

The third Crusade which is the subject of 'The Tslisman' was then undertaken, but, in spite of Richard's brllliant exploits it failed, owing to the disagreement of the Christian Princes among themselves.

THE MEDIEVAL CHIVALRY.

Every brave soldier in Medieval times became a knight as a reward for some feat of arms. But young men of good family were knighted in any case when they arrived at a suitable age, and had passed through previous training as pages or attendants on knights. After spending a whole night in watching over their armour and praying in some Church, they received their knight-hood the next day by being dubbed or struck on the shoulder by some other knight. All knights were considered gentlemen and equals of another. If one offended another, the offended person threw down his gauntlet, or mailed glove, and offered to fight the other in single combat. The victor in the combat was considered to have proved the Justice of his cause. The space within which they fought was enclosed within barriers called lists and the fight itself was called a tournament. Every knight chose a lady for whose sake he performed his devoir, or duty, and whose colours he wore in battle. The lady was generally one whom he hoped to marry, but she might be a queen or great lady above him in rank, and yet would consider

herself honoured by his attentions, and would bestow upon him some reward, such as the roses that Edith dropped in the Chapel.

In the Talisman from the beginning to the end the spirit of Medieval Chivalry can be noticed in the main events and in the many characters sketched for us. Sir Kenneth and Richard are types of medieval knights whose doings, feelings and thoughts are pervaded by a truly chivalrous feature. The other crusaders though not so typical as Richard and Kenneth, sufficiently illustrate by their various actions, the common features of medieval chivalry.

The rank of Knighthood, a knight's devoir, a medieval tournament the medieval court, combats in open lists, all these are some of the characteristic features of chivalry. In Sir Kenneth's love for Edith and in the sentiments of Edith about Sir Kenneth and in the sentiments of the latter about the former, there is the true vein of chivalry felt at every point. Richard's appreciation of the Knight of the Leopard and the latter's recognition of Richard's superiority is full of Chivalry and this is extended even to the infidel east when Richard himself says that Saladin King of the Turks is in some respects a better and truer King than the Western crusaders.

Knighthood breaks down all differences of birth, rank and social position. Hence Sir Kenneth says that though he is a mere commoner, yet he is a true Knight of chivalry and as such, he may be permitted to love Edith. Again the reciprocation of love on the part of Edith towards Kenneth, the dropping of the rose-buds in the chapel at the cave of Engaddi the interview between her and Kenneth, and the outburst

of Sir Kenneth's affection blended with disappointment, and dejection on the part of Edith when she upholds the cause of her lover before Richard and when she recognizes in the Nubian slave her ideal Knight are nothing more than clear sentiments of chivalry.

RICHARD'S CHARACTER.

Richard was a strong man, a brave and courageous soldier and skilled warrior. His iron will kept up the spirit among the crusaders, but his sense of pride, rashness and impetuosity caused a cleavage among them and created jealousy in the minds of his comrades. His behaviour towards Leopald when the latter planted the banner of Austria side by side with that of England, well illustrates his haughtiness of spirit and irritability of temper. Even at the time when he was severely afflicted with that "slow and wasting" fever, he sped forth immediately and soon reaching the mound broke the standard spear of Austria and trampled it under his feet. The Knights of Leopald protested but in vain. It was only when Philip of France came to the scene and acknowledged his superiority his rage subsided.

He was a stern master and a strict disciplinarian. When Sir Kenneth had lost the banner of England through his negligence in his duty of watching it, Richard condemned him to instantaneous death. Even the pleadings of his dear wife Berengaria and his cousin Edith could not make him relax his sentence. The Holy hermit of Engaddi interceded on his behalf but in vain. It was only when El Hakim who had cured him of his fatal disease prevailed upon him he was

obliged to yeild, out of sheer gratitude for the physician, but even then he banished him from his presence.

But in spite of his foibles, he was not devoid of better and nobler qualities. He recognized the bravery and skill in others and admired the same qualities in Sir Kenneth and Saladin. He swore never to strike one whose shoulder bore the cross and refused to fight with Wallenrode on that score. He showed his gratitude towards El Hakim for his having saved his life. He had a keen eye of perception and this enabled him to find out under the guise of the Nubian slave Sir Kenneth and under the guise of Kenneth, the Prince David of Scotland. He had a love for music and poetry and frequently enjoyed music in his pavilion. He had the spirit of give and take. In the Council he made concessions to his comrades and agreed that his army might be commanded by Princes chosen by the council and thus revived the spirit of crusades in them. He was a kind busband and intensely loved his wife Berengaria. Above all, he was generous even to profusion. When Conrade, the traitor lay wounded and dying, he appealed to Saladin to save his wife with the help of his elixir, the Talisman; and this quality sets his character at its best.

EDITH AND BERENGARIA: COMPARED AND CONTRASTED.

Both Edith and Berengaria were young, and beautiful ladies. But Berengaria's features were so extremely Juvenile as to make her look several years younger than she really

was. In short, she had a beauty that was more lovely. On the other hand Edith was more majestic in her appearance and had an admiring beauty. While a somewhat wilful nature, obstinacy, good-humour and playfulness characterized the queen, seriousness, straightforwardness, a more comprehensive understanding and a more noble cast of thought and sentiment characterized Edith. When Berengaria caused Sir Kenneth to be lured away from his duty, she could not understand the true nature of her mischief. In her vanity she thought she could easily procure the Knight pardon from her husband. But Edith quickly grasped the situation and in vain implored the queen not to practise the fraud upon a poor Knight on King's duty. Her sense of honour prevented her from being a party to the fraud practised on him.

Again when Berengaria implored pardon before Richard for the condemned Knight Edith craved for Justice rather than mercy. "My Lord," she said, "this good Knight whose blood you are about to spill, hath done, in his time, service to Christendom. He hath fallen from his duty through a snare set for him in mere folly and idleness of spirit. A message sent to him in the name of one who—why should I not speak it?—it was in my own—induced him for an instant to leave his post. And what Knight in the Christian Camp might not have thus far transgressed at the command of a maiden who, poor however in other qualities, hath yet, the blood of Plantagenet in her veins." Thus her speech was bold, straightforward and King-like. When Richard was firm in his resolution and refused to relax the sentence, Berengaria dreaded the king's anger and kept silent. But Edith

boldly repudiated the king's action and said "My Leige, your greatness licenses tyranny. My honour Lord King, is as little touched as yours, and my Lady the Queen can prove it, if she think fit. I ask you but to extend to one, whose fault was committed under strong temptation that mercy which even you yourself, Lord King, must one day supplicate at a higher tribunal."

But it must be said to the credit of Berengaria that she loved her husband intensely and though the King conversed more frequently and freely with Edith, on that score she did not hate her. For the recovery of her royal husband from the fatal disease, she made a pilgrimage to the cave of Engaddi. Even though her husband was stern in his duties and persistant in his ways, her simple inncence forgave him; but it is doubtful whether Edith would behave under the circumstances should she he placed in Berengaria's position.

Edith was a type of medieval chivalry. She loved Sir Kenneth for his knightly qualities. But in Berengaria's case, it is impossible that she should love one who was below her rank. Edith loved before she married. Berengaria married and then learnt to love.

SIR KENNETH.

Sir Kenneth is a type of mediaeval Knight. He can be said to be more the hero of the novel than Richard. His Knightly qualities, his nobility and sense of honour, coupled with his bravery and skill, attracted even Richards' attention and made Edith to fall in love with him.

In the encounter with the Saracen in the desert, he showed the spirit of a cavalier and recognized the ability of Sheerkohf. His behaviour at the chapel in the cave of Engaddi showed him to be a true Knight in the real sense of the term. He twice saved the life of Richard, once through El Hakim when he was suffering from that wasting fever, a second time in the guise of a Nubian slave when the Marabout attempted to stab the King.

It was because of his Knightly qualities that Richard chose him to guard the banner of England; that the Princes of Europe entrusted him with a momentous commission to Theodric of Engaddi; that Edith honoured and loved him and even openly confessed her love for him without shyness before Richard; and that El Hakim took a real interest in him and his welfare and saved his life from death by pleading for it before Richard.

His somewhat apparent negligence in his duty of guarding King Richard's banner may appear inexcusable in the eyes of some strict disciplinarians like Richard, but what man would dare to disobey the call of the lady of his love. In the words of Edith, " what Knight in the Christian camp might not have thus far transgressed at command of a maiden who poor however in other qualities, hath yet the blood of Plantagenet in her veins. '

Above all his disguise as an unknown Knight, his fight for the cause of Christendom, his wanton sufferings and humiliation show him to be a true Christian in the strict sense of the term.

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